AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

The text of all pending claims, along with their current status, is set forth below.

Please amend claims 1, 10, 18, 19, and 21-23 as shown.

1.   (Currently Amended) A method of automatically identifying a write protect status of a computer diskette, comprising the acts of:

interacting with the computer diskette to produce a failure code indicative of the write protect status, the computer diskette being removable and rewritable; and

identifying the write protect status of the computer diskette based on the failure code.

2.   (Original) The method of claim 1, comprising the act of identifying a media type and storage area of the computer diskette.

3.   (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the act of interacting with the computer diskette comprises the act of interacting with a non-storage area of the computer diskette.

4.   (Original) The method of claim 3, wherein the act of interacting with the non-storage area comprises the act of attempting to write data to the non-storage area.

5.   (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the act of interacting with the computer diskette comprises the acts of:

reading data from a storage location of the computer diskette; and

attempting to write the data back to the computer diskette.

6.   (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the act of interacting with the computer diskette to produce the failure code comprises the act of generating a write protect failure code if the write protect status of the computer diskette is write protected.

7.   (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the acts of interacting with the computer diskette and identifying the write protect status are performed upon receipt of an access request to the computer diskette.

8.   (Original) The method of claim 7, comprising the act of receiving the access request from a remote computer.

9.   (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the acts of interacting with the computer diskette and identifying the write protect status are performed upon insertion of the computer diskette into a disk drive.

10.   (Currently Amended) A method of identifying a write protect status of a removable media, comprising the acts of:

seeking to a non-storage location beyond the a storage area of the removable media;

attempting to write data to the removable media at the non-storage location;

evaluating a failure code produced by the attempted write; and

identifying the write protect status of the removable media based on the failure code.

11.   (Original) The method of claim 10, comprising the act of identifying a media type of the removable media.

12.   (Original) The method of claim 11, wherein the act of identifying the media type comprises the act of identifying a storage range of the removable media.

13.   (Original) The method of claim 10, wherein the acts of seeking, attempting to write data, evaluating the failure code, and identifying the write protect status are initiated automatically upon insertion of the removable media into a media drive.

14.   (Original) The method of claim 10, wherein the acts of seeking, attempting to write data, evaluating the failure code, and identifying the write protect status are initiated by a remote computer.

15.   (Original) The method of claim 14, comprising processing an access request from the remote computer for access to the removable media.

16.   (Original) The method of claim 10, wherein the act of attempting to write data causes the failure code to be a write protect error if the write protect status of the removable media is write protected.

17.   (Original) The method of claim 10, wherein the act of attempting to write data causes the failure code to be an invalid write error if the write protect status of the removable media is not write protected.

18.   (Currently Amended) ~~The~~ A method of identifying a write protect status of a removable rewriteable media, comprising the acts of:

reading data from the removable rewriteable media at a storage location;

attempting to write the data back to the removable rewriteable media; and

identifying the write protect status of the removable rewriteable media as write protected if a write protect error code is observed.

19.   (Currently Amended) The method of claim 18, wherein the acts of reading data, attempting to write the data, and identifying the write protect status are initiated automatically upon insertion of the removable rewriteable media into a media drive.

20.   (Original) The method of claim 18, wherein the acts of reading data, attempting to write the data, and identifying the write protect status are initiated by a remote computer.

21.   (Currently Amended) The method of claim 20, comprising processing an access request from the remote computer for access to the removable rewriteable media.

22.   (Currently Amended) The method of claim 18, wherein the act of attempting to write the data causes the write protect failure code if the removable <u>rewriteable</u> media is write protected.

23.   (Currently Amended) The method of claim 18, wherein the act of attempting to write the data succeeds if the removable <u>rewriteable</u> media is not write protected.

24.   (Original) The method of claim 18, wherein the act of attempting to write the data comprises the act of attempting to rewrite the data over the data existing at the storage location.